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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. S-3-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	)	
	)	Examiner: Lee S. Cohen
RONALD A. UNDERWOOD et al.	)	
	)	Art Unit: 3739
Application No.: 09/512,742	)	
	)	
Filed: February 24, 2000	)	AMENDMENT
	)	
For: METHODS FOR ELECTROSURGICAL	)	
TISSUE CONTRACTION WITHIN THE SPINE	)	
	)	
	)	

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

1. Please enter the following amended paragraph on page 42, line 35:

As shown in Fig. 34, the distal portion of shaft 702 is introduced anteriorly through a small percutaneous penetration into the annulus fibrosus 710 of the target spinal disc. To facilitate this process, the distal end of shaft 702 may taper down

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